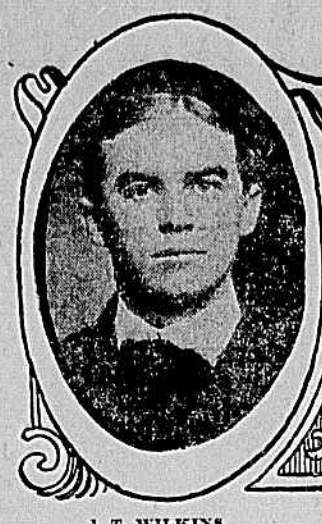


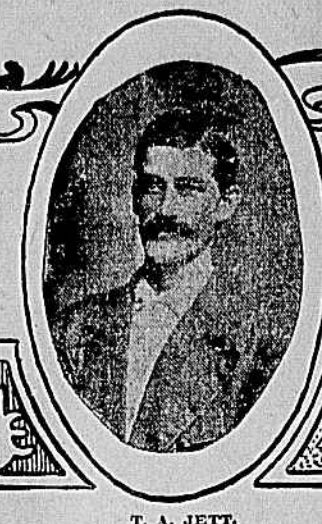
## MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE WHO WILL DEAL WITH IMPORTANT OYSTER QUESTION NOW BEING AGITATED



JOHN R. REW, Chairman.



J. T. WILKINS.



T. A. JETT.



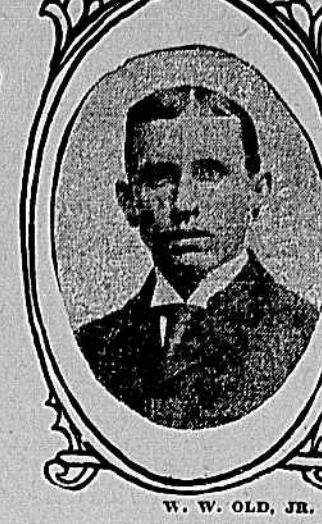
JOHN CURLETT.



W. E. HOWLE.



F. M. LOVE.



W. W. OLD, JR.

## POLITICAL MOVE, DEMOCRATS SAY

(Continued From First Page.)

committee will meet in the Senate chamber at 5 o'clock to-night, and it is probable that Judge Rhea will complete his testimony, begun on Friday night, though he may await the closing of the case for the prosecution and then conclude his statement.

If Mr. Stephenson, the Scott county witness, arrives in time for the session to-night he may be put on first by Senator Noel. Stephenson was the Democratic clerk of Scott county when the famous ballot was used, and Senator Noel wants to question him regarding the matter. He will have to be treated by the prosecution as what is known in court as a hostile witness, however, as it is understood that he is not seeking to testify in the case, and was called against his wishes. An attachment has been issued for him, and he may be here to-day.

Captain Gent and Mr. Routh are to be asked concerning the alleged changing of the Russell county return in the Slemmons case, they having been at Lebanon when J. H. Ashworth (Democrat), of Bristol, is alleged to have gone there in the interest of Judge Rhea.

There will be but few, if any, other

witnesses for either side, and if they are all present there is good reason to believe the case can be concluded to-night, so far as the taking of testimony is concerned.

May Be Argued.

It is not known yet that there will be any argument, but it is likely there will be. In this event the chief speeches will be made by Captain Bullitt for the prosecution, and Hon. R. Tate Irvine, for Judge Rhea. Hon. A. A. Campbell, of Wythe, and Hon. B. F. Buchanan, of Smyth, are assisting Mr. Irvine, and both may make addresses. If there is an extended argument, Senator Noel may take a hand for the prosecution. It is expected that a report will be made by the Confirmation Committee in the joint Assembly on Wednesday or Thursday, and that it will be highly favorable to Judge Rhea.

The investigation has not only cost the State and individuals interested a great deal of trouble and money, but it has broken seriously into the work of the Legislature, members as a rule attending the sessions of the joint committee and listening to the witnesses as they appear.

## Here and There in the Legislature

A LARGE delegation of members of the Anti-Saloon League were present at the session of the House Committee on General Laws today for consideration of all liquor bills now pending before the Legislature. The liquor people were also well represented.

The better part of the afternoon was taken by a discussion of the amendment to the bill prohibiting the sale of liquor to minors. This amendment was offered by Delegate Alden Bell, of Culpeper, and is designed to prohibit the sale to minors of persons of the age of 18 years and over. The Rev. James Cannon, Jr., of Blackstone, urged the passage of the amendment, but which, he said, would be of no benefit to the cause of temperance.

Attorney Timberlake, of Staunton, who represented the liquor clients, said that it would be difficult for a barkeeper to determine who is an habitual drunkard, and that it might go to a place where he is not known and buy whiskey, saying the amendment would be of no benefit to the cause of temperance. He said that if Mr. Bell agreed he would be willing to alter the amendment so as to provide that any one who is habitually drunk, as defined in the bill would be liable to criminal action.

The committee also took up Delegate Talladega's bill, prohibiting the sale of liquor, directly or indirectly, to women. Another bill considered was Senator Ward's bill, to the effect of liquor by express companies except to the party to whom such package is billed or shipped.

The measure regarding early closing, introduced by Delegates Curlett and Craig, were not taken up at this time, as a result of these gentlemen were sick and unable to appear. It is thought that the Curlett bill, requiring all saloons to close at 6 o'clock will cause a hot war, where there will be a contest to consider the measure.

SENATOR N. B. EARLY, of Greene, is in receipt of the following telegram from a prominent lawyer of the Charlottesville bar: "Please see Senator Early and Delegates and ask them not to commit themselves for Judge of Corporation Court of Charlottesville until they have heard from Effort on foot here to concentrate."

Senator Early has been at work since the telegram was received, and with much success, to the present undecided disposition on the part of members to hear what are the wishes of the bar and the people before selecting a judge.

The vacancy is occasioned by the sudden death of Judge George W. Morris, who was elected judge of the Corporation Court of the city of Buena Vista, and there is talk of electing a separate judge for the latter court. In the event this is done, it is understood that Hon. William P. Houston, former judge of the County Court of Rockbridge, will be a candidate. It is understood further that Mr. Burnley Smith

## DYSPEPSIA



MUNSON'S DYSPEPSIA CURE corrects bloating of the stomach, palpitation of the heart, shortness of breath, and all affections of the heart caused by indigestion, wind on the stomach, belching, wind or sour foot, loss of appetite, or weakness of the stomach, improper circulation, coated tongue, heartburn or water-brash. His Headache Cure stops headache in 5 minutes. Price 25c.

Munson's Kidney and Bladder Cures all forms of piles. Price 25c.

Munson's Liver Cure corrects headache, biliousness, jaundice, constipation, and all liver diseases. Price 25c.

Munson's Stomach Cures all forms of indigestion, loss of appetite, and all stomach troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Blood Cure corrects all blood impurities. Price 25c.

Munson's Lung Cure corrects all lung troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Nerve Cure corrects all nerve troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Skin Cure corrects all skin troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Hair Cure corrects all hair troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Eye Cure corrects all eye troubles. Price 25c.

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Munson's Throat Cure corrects all throat troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Nose Cure corrects all nose troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Mouth Cure corrects all mouth troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Teeth Cure corrects all teeth troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Gums Cure corrects all gum troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Tongue Cure corrects all tongue troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Lips Cure corrects all lip troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Face Cure corrects all face troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Neck Cure corrects all neck troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Chest Cure corrects all chest troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Back Cure corrects all back troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Arms Cure corrects all arm troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Legs Cure corrects all leg troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Feet Cure corrects all foot troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Hands Cure corrects all hand troubles. Price 25c.

Munson's Nails Cure corrects all nail troubles. Price 25c.

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## LEGISLATION IN VIRGINIA BEFORE CIVIL WAR

BY DR. R. H. McILWAIN, State Librarian.

A custom of the olden times in Virginia was the preservation of a great deal of interesting and valuable historical material, which otherwise we should not have at all. This custom was the sending of petitions from individuals or groups of persons to the Legislature. Nowadays it is different; the representative is approached by their constituents, and they introduce measures. But before modern habits of legislation came into play, and indeed, from the early days of the Colony to the Civil War, people directly addressed the Legislature in petitions which set forth in due terms their hopes, wishes and grievances.

Preserved in Library.

This great mass of manuscript material, composed of many thousands of documents, is preserved in the State Library in this city, and is now being catalogued by the Department of Archives and History. When the catalogue is completed and published, the growing band of Virginia historical students will have gained some important matter.

Light is thrown upon many points. For instance, a law was passed in the early years of the nineteenth century requiring all negroes who should become free to leave Virginia within one year after their liberation, upon pain of being sold again into slavery. This law on its face seems a rigid one, but it was not so in reality. Freemen were frequently criminals, and were sent to the State Prison for many reasons. Freemen, where they lived to plunder their masters. The free negroes acted as "fences" and bought the stolen property of the slaves. The law, on its sides, the free negroes made the

slaves dissatisfied and insubordinate.

Sent in Petitions.

These were sound reasons for the law excluding free negroes. But men are inclined to show mercy in individual cases, even when the practice negatives a useful general rule. It was the law that free negroes must leave Virginia within twelve months, but the Legislature could pass special acts exempting special negroes from exile. As a consequence every negro who had the luck or luck to be freed, and who had any character whatever, sent up a petition to the Legislature representing the hardship of being forced to leave the State. The petitions were numerous, and almost every negro could prevail upon a great number of worthy citizens to sign his statement that he was a respectable and law-abiding person, and his petition to continue to live in Virginia. There are hundreds of such petitions, and in many cases the Legislature granted them, although in a number it did not.

Another side of Virginia life abundantly illustrated by the petitions is the economic. All the schemes of development and progress that agitated the brains of our forefathers in the days "before de war" are set down in petitions asking for charters or legislative aid. Rumsey and Fitch, the men who were the first to introduce the telegraph to the Virginia Assembly and received certain privileges. Promoters of cotton, iron, coal, and other industries, turnpikes, canals, railroads, mines, bridges, towns, were thought of and chartered.

Some Curious Relics.

People think nowadays that in the good old times divorces were rare.

Divorces may have been rare, but not

people "wishful" for divorces. The Legislature was then the only power which granted divorces, and it granted them reluctantly. It was accordingly besieged by husbands and wives anxious to resume the charms of single existence, and with good reasons for the wish. In one case a man affirms that he was falsely lured into matrimony at the early age of sixteen by a lady twice his years. There are endless tales of faithless husbands who had deserted wives and families. One of the most interesting of all the petitions was sent in to the Legislature in 1780. It came from a company of militiamen which had behaved badly at the unfortunate battle of Camden, where Gates exchanged his "northern" laurels for southern willows. These militiamen, overcome with grief for their misconduct, made a statement of their case to the Assembly, which is a very manly document. They labored under the disadvantage of being undisciplined, mostly unarmed, and offered by men quite as ignorant as themselves. They had marched far and fast through heat and dust, and with never a square meal to comfort them. Was it inexcusable, they asked, that they did not behave as braves in the conflict?

To Issue Calendar.

There are many such documents among the petitions in the library, which are now being catalogued for the use of students and the curious. Many abstracts of petitions have been made by Dr. Eckenrode or under his direction, and the library will soon be prepared to issue the first volume of the calendar—a book which should prove of interest to all people who love the life and history of Old Virginia.

## POSTOFFICE RECORD

Receipts of the Richmond post-office for the sale of stamps, stationery, and other articles, for the month of January, 1906, are as follows:

|                |         |
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| Stamps         | \$54.40 |
| Stationery     | \$1.00  |
| Other articles | \$1.00  |
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